

Duxbury Clipper

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Library candidates agree: it's not just about books

Mutkoski, Harris and Sturgis vie for two seats

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The candidates for library trustee all agree on one thing: in these times, libraries are about more than books.

"The library is a very special place in our town," said Laney Mutkoski, the incumbent. "It's a place people are going to continue to need."

**Town
Election
2009**

Mutkoski and two others, Paula Harris and Kate Sturgis, will be competing for two seats on the Board of Library Trustees in Saturday's elections. At a candidates' forum sponsored by the Clipper, the three women stressed the importance of the library in difficult economic times.

"They can really be that resource for people," said Sturgis, talking about classes the library has held on things like resume writing, social networking sites and the library's databases for job searching.

"The library does a tremendous job of reacting to the ...," said Harris. "Librar-



BOOK WORMS: Candidates for library trustee Laney Mutkoski, Kate Sturgis and Paula Harris all stressed the importance of the library in difficult economic times.

VOTERS' GUIDE

Hear the candidates for Library Trustee in their own words on page 19

ies are really about access to information. A lot of people thought libraries were going to go the way of the dinosaur ... libraries reinvented themselves."

Sturgis pointed to alternative technologies like the Kindle or other electronic readers.

"I don't own one because I'm not sure I want to read my books that way, but a lot of people do," she said.

Mutkoski said the library needs to strike a balance between encouraging reading and providing other opportunities for residents.

"The library is really the living room of the community," she said. "We want the library to be the meeting room of the community."

Harris, who said she and her husband were "semi-power users of the library," said she takes advantage of the library's resources whenever she can.

"From books to museum passes, to DVD rentals ... I make sure I see the art exhibits, and I love the free Friday films," she said.

All of the candidates touted their experience, and their devotion to the library.

"I'm a lifelong reader," said Sturgis. "Serving as a library trustee would be an honor."